

# Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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Candid.



## Fixin' to Live by Fixin' to Die

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

One of the most famous self-written epitaphs in American history is that of Benjamin Franklin. Ironically, Franklin wrote it in 1728 when he was just 22 years old but amended it several times before dying in 1790. Written in his own handwriting and preserved in the Mason collection at Yale University, here is how his original epitaph reads...

*The Body of  
B. Franklin,  
Printer;  
Like the Cover of an old Book,  
Its Contents torn out,  
And stript of its Lettering and  
Gilding,  
Lies here, Food for Worms.  
But the Work shall not be  
wholly lost:  
For it will, as he believ'd, appear once more,  
In a new & more perfect Edition,  
Corrected and amended  
By the Author.*

Another far less known but even more poignant self-written epitaph was penned by William Carey, known as the "Father of Modern Missions", who spent 41 years without a furlough sharing the gospel throughout India.

Long before his death at age 73, Carey had become a famous, even mythic, figure. In fact, some of his acquaintances in England began collecting relics from his earlier days

including a cup from which he had drunk, a pair of shoes he had made, and a wooden board advertising his cobbler business.

Carey would have none of it. "The less said about me the better," he declared. When he lay dying in 1834, Carey summoned fellow missionary Alexander Duff to his side and whispered, "Mr. Duff! You have been speaking about Dr. Carey, Dr. Carey; when I am gone, say nothing about Dr. Carey. Speak about Dr. Carey's Savior."



It should come as no surprise to learn that Carey instructed that, in addition to his dates of birth and death, only the following words be inscribed on his gravestone: "A wretched, poor, and helpless worm, On Thy kind arms I fall."

Following in Ben Franklin's and William Carey's illustrious footsteps, I have decided to write my own epitaph because you never know when God will call you home. After all, I survived two serious car crashes in my early 20s and a near-fatal bout of Covid in 2021, so maybe I am living on borrowed time as we speak. And since my dad died of a heart attack at 77 and my grandad of a stroke at 77, the clock may be ticking on this 65-year-old.

And so, without further ado, here goes nothing.

*Husband... Father... Papa*

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# Fixin' to Live by Fixin' to Die

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That's it. Sorry for the big build-up followed by the anti-climactic letdown, but that is how I want to be remembered. Simply put, I define myself by what - and who - is most important to me: my wife of 39 years and counting, our three incredible adult children, and our six precious grandkids.

Other than my preeminent position as "a child of God", my roles as Deanna's husband... Bethany, Matt, and Christopher's dad... and Brady, Sadie, Levi, Dylan, Bella, and Charlotte's "Papa" are the most important titles I will ever hold this side of glory.

Since we are on a rather maudlin subject, I figure I may as well go all out and plan my own memorial service while I'm at it. Why not spare Deanna a few headaches and heartaches if I can, right?

As for my eulogizers, any of my three kids who are willing and feel able would do just fine. My preferred officiants - providing they don't predecease me - would be my dear friends and fellow ministers Larry "Chap" Lilly, Dave McMurray, Bill Waltz, and Tom Cox.

Music, you say? How about one sacred and one secular. For the hymn, it doesn't get much better than "It Is Well with My Soul" and be sure to include the third verse that reads...

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

As for the secular song, you're probably expecting me to pick something that Frank Sinatra recorded, and you'd be right. However, it's not a song that is normally associated with Ol' Blue Eyes, but rather with Richard Kiley, who immortalized it on Broadway in *The Man of La Mancha*.

I don't know about you, but I've always felt a bit like Don Quixote, tilting at windmills in life as I willingly, joyfully, and stubbornly took on one oversized - some might say hopeless - cause after another. Here are the lyrics to "The Impossible Dream"...

To dream the impossible dream  
To fight the unbeatable foe  
To bear with unbearable sorrow

To run where the brave dare not go

To right the unrightable wrong  
To love, pure and chaste, from afar  
To try, when your arms are too weary  
To reach the unreachable star

This is my quest, to follow that star  
No matter how hopeless, no matter how far  
To fight for the right without question or pause  
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause

And I know if I'll only be true  
To this glorious quest  
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm  
When I'm laid to my rest

And the world will be better for this  
That one man, scorned and covered with scars  
Still strove, with his last ounce of courage  
To reach the unreachable star!

One last thing before I turn the attention away from me and onto Y-O-U...

I would like someone at my memorial service to read "The Man in the Arena", which is an excerpt from Teddy Roosevelt's *Citizenship in a Republic*, a speech he delivered at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, on April 23, 1910. If ever a single paragraph described how I aspired to live my life, this is it.

*It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.*

OK, enough about me and my denouement. My main purpose in writing this article was to encourage YOU to think about how YOU want to be remembered because

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# Obedience or Knowledge?

by Alistair Begg

*“Have you entered into the springs of the sea?”*  
- Job 38:16

Some things in nature remain a mystery even to the most intelligent and enterprising investigators. Human knowledge has boundaries beyond which it cannot pass.

Universal knowledge is for God alone. If this is true in the things that are seen and temporal, I can be certain that it is even more so in spiritual and eternal matters. Why, then, have I been torturing my brain with speculations about divine sovereignty and human responsibility? These deep and dark truths I am no more able to comprehend than to discover the source from which the ocean draws her watery supplies.

Why am I so curious to know the reason for my Lord's providences, the motive of His actions, the design of His visitations? Will I ever be able to clasp the sun in my fist

or hold the universe in my palm? Yet these are as a drop in a bucket compared with the Lord my God. Do not let me strive to understand the infinite, but spend my strength in love. What I cannot gain by intellect I can possess by affection, and that should be enough for me. I cannot penetrate the heart of the sea, but I can enjoy the healthy breezes that sweep across it, and I can sail over its blue waves with propitious winds.

If I could enter the springs of the sea, the feat would serve no useful purpose either to myself or to others; it would not save the sinking ship or restore the drowned sailor to his weeping wife and children. Neither would my solving deep mysteries avail me a single whit. The simplest act of obedience to Him is better than the profoundest knowledge. My Lord, I leave the infinite to You and ask You to put far from me a love for the tree of knowledge that would keep me from the tree of life.

*Devotional material is taken from “Morning and Evening,” written by C.H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg. Copyright © 2003, Good News Publishers*

## Fixin' to Live by Fixin' to Die

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once you're gone, it's too late. As Fred Shuttlesworth, an early Civil Rights leader who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and helped organize the Birmingham desegregation campaign in 1963, famously said, “You have to be prepared to die before you can begin to live.”

My friend, please take a moment today, right now, and consider what kind of legacy you want to leave behind. Will you be remembered as someone who lived a life of eternal consequence or someone who frittered away their 70 or 80 years on this earth chasing - or worrying about - temporal things that really didn't matter.

You, and you alone, are responsible for writing your own epitaph.

(Editor's Note: In case you thought I forgot, I have saved the best for last. The Bible passages that I would like shared at my memorial service are my life verse, Philippians 1:9, and Romans 10:9-10, which explains God's plan of salvation as simply and concisely as possible.)

## Quotes by John Wooden

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

"If you're not making mistakes, then you're not doing anything. I'm positive that a doer makes mistakes."

"Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be."

"It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen."

"Talent is God-given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful."



**Midway Bible Fellowship**

*Proclaiming God's Truth & Demonstrating His Love*

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts

10 a.m. - Worship service

1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL



## 8th Annual Olde Hickory Golf Classic

Saturday, April 5, 2025  
Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach FL  
8 a.m. shotgun start  
(Registration, Continental Breakfast &  
Driving Range Open at 7 a.m.)

Step back in time for a 1920's era golf tournament featuring Bobby Jones replica golf balls and hickory-shafted clubs. Four-man scramble format including greens fees, cart, unlimited range balls, continental breakfast, box lunch, putting contest, prizes, and silent auction. Proceeds benefit Risk Takers for Christ's outreach to at-risk youth in our community.

Participants will be permitted to use their own clubs and balls except for the famed "Hickory Hole," a Par-3 where all golfers will be required to use 1920's era replica balls and a brassie, a spoon, a mashie, or a niblick for their tee shot! Hickory-shafted putters and replica balls will also be supplied for the putting contest, and other hickory-shafted clubs will be on display and available for purchase as part of the silent auction.

Tournament price is \$110 per golfer / \$400 per foursome. Deadline to register is Friday, March 28th.

To register your foursome (or individual golfers), mail names and full payment to Risk Takers for Christ, PO Box 651421, Vero Beach FL 32965-1421. You can also register online at [www.risktakersforchrist.org](http://www.risktakersforchrist.org) and pay with PayPal or by credit card.

For sponsorship opportunities, please email [dale@risktakersforchrist.org](mailto:dale@risktakersforchrist.org) or call 772.539.1826.

## We Have a QR Code

Everyone can use a spiritual lift in the morning, especially on weekdays when work, school, and other demands vie for our time and attention... and sap our strength. Risk Takers for Christ wants to help by offering a free weekday devotional message that will challenge and encourage you in your daily walk.



*Point your smart-  
phone camera at  
this QR code to  
receive an uplift-  
ing devotional  
message each  
weekday.*

Risk Takers for Christ



## March Madness 3-on-3 Tournament March 22, 2025

- Limited to first 8 teams (no subs except for injuries)
- Double elimination, two-game guarantee
- Gym opens at 8:15 AM, tournament begins at 9:00 AM
- Cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams
- Free t-shirt for all participants
- Continental breakfast and snacks provided

**SIGN UP TODAY!!!**

## Living H2O Initiative



Mondays from 6-8 p.m.  
First Baptist Church of Vero

Join us for some Bible &  
Basketball  
*Free Snacks Provided*

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